

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 have been cancelled from the application and new claims 6-17 have been added. Claim 6 is in independent form.

Original claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Maeda (6152534). The Examiner indicated that Maeda discloses a trim set for covering a seat assembly, a mesh panel for supporting an occupant in the seat assembly, a retaining strip attached to the mesh panel for securing the trim set atop the mesh panel, and a tab extending from the trim set and secured between the retaining strip and the mesh panel, thereby securing the trim set in relation to the mesh panel. However, the Examiner indicated that claim 5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent from including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Specifically, claim 5 set forth the retaining strip further including a flange and the connector extending through the mesh panel and the flange to connect the retaining strip to the mesh panel.

In response, Applicant has cancelled claims 1-5 and added new claims 6-17. New independent claim 6 set forth: A trim set attachment assembly (20) for removably attaching a trim set (22) to a mesh panel (18) of an automotive seat assembly (10), said trim set attachment assembly comprising: a retaining strip (24) having an elongated base (40), at least one retainer (48) extending transversely from said base (40) to a distal end, and a plurality of flanges (38) extending transversely from said base (40) adjacent said at least one retainer (48); at least one connector (26) coupled between at least one of said flanges (38) and the mesh panel (18) for fixedly securing said retaining strip (24) to the mesh panel (18); and at least one tab (28) adapted to be fixedly secured to and extend from the edge of the trim set (22), said tab (28) having an

anchor (56) for engaging at least one of said retainers (48) to secure said tab (28) between said retaining strip (24) and the mesh panel (18), thereby removably securing the trim set (22) in relation to the mesh panel (18).

Applicant submits new claim 6 more clearly set forth and distinctly claims the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention and includes the limitations as previously set forth in allowable claim 5. Namely, new claim 6 includes the limitation of at least one connector (26) coupled between at least one of said flanges (38) and the mesh panel (18) for fixedly securing said retaining strip (24) to the mesh panel (18). As recognized by the Examiner, the prior art does not disclose a trim set attaching mechanism for removably attaching a trim set to a mesh panel of an automotive set wherein the mechanism includes at least one connector extending and coupled between a flange extending from a retaining strip and the mesh panel for fixedly securing the retaining strip to the mesh panel.

Therefore, new claim 6 should be in immediate condition for allowance. New claims 7-17 depend from independent claim 6 and therefore should also be in condition for allowance.



It is respectfully submitted that this patent application is in condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment or the patent application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Appl'n No: 10/591,684
Amdt dated September 28, 2009
Reply to Office action of May 26, 2009

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee associated with this Communication to Deposit Account No. 50-1759. A duplicate of this form is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

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